

SAN LUIS REY BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

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September 25, 2015

Peter Eichar
Project Manager
Planning & Development Services
County of San Diego
5510 Overland Ave., Ste. 110
San Diego, CA 92123

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
Peter.Eichar@sdcounty.ca.gov

**RE: TRIBAL RESPONSE REGARDING THE NOTICE OF PREPARATION
OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE HARMONY
GROVE VILLAGE SOUTH GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT, SPECIFIC
PLAN, REZONE, TENTATIVE MAP, AND MAJOR USE PERMIT
PROJECT (PDS2015-GPA-15-002, PDS2015-SP-15-002, PDS-REZ-15-003,
PDS2015-TM-5600, PDS2015-MUP-15-008)**

Dear Mr. Eichar:

We, the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians ("Tribe") have received and reviewed the County of San Diego's ("County's") Notice of Preparation ("NOP") of an Environmental Impact Report ("DEIR") for the Harmony Grove Village South Project ("Project") and inquiry whether the Tribe has any knowledge of cultural resources or sacred places that may be impacted by the proposed Project. According to the NOP, the Project's is located in the southeastern-most portion of the Harmony Grove Valley area, between the City of Escondido and the community of Elfin Forrest, within the unincorporated jurisdiction of the County ("Project Area").

As the County is aware, we are a northern San Diego County Tribe whose traditional territory includes Camp Pendleton, the current cities of Oceanside, Carlsbad, Vista, San Marcos and Escondido, as well as unincorporated areas in northern San Diego County, such as the communities of Elfin Forrest, Valley Center, Fallbrook and Bonsall. We are resolute in the preservation and protection of cultural, archaeological and historical sites within all these jurisdictions.

The land in and around the Project area is sacred to the Luiseño people. Our Tribe is aware of many sacred tribal cultural resource sites within close proximity of the proposed Project site and strongly urges caution in assessing the land encompassing the Project for development purposes. The Tribe is aware that in 2006 the Project Location was assessed for the presence of Native American tribal cultural resources. However, this assessment failed to include the presence of a Luiseno Native American monitor. Nor, was the assessment able to provide

necessary information to the County regarding the presence of sensitive tribal cultural resources and/or provide an accurate assessment for a satisfactory review of the Project's cumulative impact to tribal cultural resources, given the age of the assessment and the last eight years of active Native American monitoring in the area, to which San Luis Rey has been an active protector.

Therefore, when evaluating this Project's environmental impact, the Tribe respectfully requests that the County require a Luiseno Native American monitor be present during any and all tribal cultural resource assessments for the preparation of the DEIR, but also that a Luiseno Native American monitor be present during any and all ground disturbing activities such as geotechnical investigations, clearing, grubbing, trenching, excavation, preparation for utilities and other infrastructure, grading, and any other ground-disturbing activity for the Project. This area is incredibly sensitive and warrants the presence of a Luiseno Native American monitor during all ground disturbing activities, pre- and post- DEIR.

The Tribe has enjoyed a mutually respectful relationship with the County over the years and would appreciate an opportunity to discuss this Project's specific potential negative impact on our Luiseño cultural resources in a face-to-face meeting, as requested on July 14, 2015 pursuant to Government Code Section 65352.3, also known as Senate Bill 18.

We appreciate the opportunity to share with the County of San Diego our concerns regarding this Project and thank you for your assistance in protecting our invaluable Luiseño Native American cultural resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Merri Lopez-Keifer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Merri" being more prominent.

Merri Lopez-Keifer
Chief Legal Counsel
San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians

cc: Melvin Vernon, Tribal Captain
Carmen Mojado, Secretary of Government Relations
Donna Beddow, County of San Diego, Department of Planning & Development Services
(via email)